



# NEWS RELEASE

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## ***USDA Rural Development Recognizes Kansas Partnerships***

Topeka, KS – USDA Rural Development State Director Chuck Banks recently announced the completion of a state-wide tour recognizing numerous Agency partners, while also commenting on the record level of funding delivered to Kansas during Fiscal Year 2005. With the cooperation of its many partners, USDA Rural Development administered nearly \$235 million in program funding benefiting Kansas during the recently completed 2005 Fiscal Year.

“USDA Rural Development appreciates the opportunity to provide needed community and economic development programming to Kansas. To more effectively leverage these important taxpayer-supported programs, the Agency partners with both the public and private sectors. The outstanding partnerships enjoyed by the Agency allow taxpayer dollars to return to Kansas, funding which is invested in our State to benefit all Kansans,” remarked Banks.

During the recognition tour, State Director Banks honored the following groups for their participation in the Agency’s business and community programs:

- Outstanding Community Development Partner: Rolling Hills Electric Cooperative, Inc., Mankato
- Outstanding Community Development Partner: Kansas Rural Water Association, Seneca
- Outstanding Community Lending Partner: Union State Bank of Uniontown
- Outstanding Media (Print) Partner: Seneca Courier-Tribune, Seneca
- Outstanding Media (Print) Partner: The Pittsburg Morning Sun, Pittsburg
- Outstanding Media (Radio) Partner: KBUF AM 1030 Radio, Garden City
- Outstanding USDA Rural Development Partner: Bruce Graham, Vice President of Kansas Electric Power Cooperative, Inc., Topeka

In his remarks, Banks further stated, “USDA Rural Development will continue to work vigorously with our partners to support local efforts in bringing new business investment to their communities. We compliment these organizations and people for utilizing the successful Agency programs.”

USDA Rural Development's mission is to deliver programs in a way that will support increasing economic opportunity and improve the quality of life of rural residents. As a venture capital entity, the Agency provides equity and technical assistance to finance and foster growth in homeownership, business development, and critical community and technology infrastructure in rural America. For additional information regarding all USDA Rural Development programs, contact the Agency at 785-271-2700 or visit the Agency’s Kansas website at [www.rurdev.usda.gov/ks](http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/ks)

**USDA Rural Development – *Committed to the future of rural communities***